Reduction in allocation of budget

2292. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the budgetary allocations of her Ministry have been slashed from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 400 crore in the current financial year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that certain instances of disproportionate expenditure were found during the months of November and December last year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how the same have been reconciled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of tourist spots in Tamil Nadu

2293. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what concrete steps are being taken for the last two years to develop the tourist spots in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the specific plan taken up to focus tourism, potentiality of Tamil Nadu at national and international level during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is a continuous process to increase the tourism potential in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance on the basis of project proposals prioritized every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Tamil Nadu for the following schemes:

(1) Product Infrastructure and Destination Development

(2) Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits

(3) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects

Ministry of Tourism is also promoting the places of tourist interests/ spots through its 20 India tourism offices located in India, 13 abroad and through the 'Incredible India' campaign as well as publicity through print and electronic media, etc.

During the current financial year Rs. 836.92 lakh has been sanctioned, out of which Rs. 670.72 lakh has been released so far.

Shortage of premium brands at duty free shops of ITDC

2294. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of premium scotch whisky at the duty free shops and ITDC has decided to switch over to a tender process, instead of purchase order to manufacturers, for buying fresh stocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for changes in purchase process; and

(c) whether Government propose to ensure that the whisky procured through lowest bidder is not adulterated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Presently, India Tourism Development Corporation is procuring from manufacturers directly.

Measures to boost tourism in tribal areas

†2295. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being implemented to boost tourism in the tribal dominated areas replete with natural beauty and wildlife and National Parks of Chhattlsgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.